

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

June 9 - 15, 2011

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136

Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222

TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open. Trans Sierra roads - SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) and SR 108 (Sonora Pass) are open. SR 120 (Tioga Pass) is closed due to remaining winter snow. Monitor Pass (SR 89) is open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to snow; it is scheduled to open July 1st. In the White Mountains, the road to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open to Schulman Grove. The dirt road north of Schulman Grove is open to its junction with the Wyman Canyon Road, closed to the north of the junction. Silver and Wyman Canyon roads are open; high clearance vehicles recommended. Big Pine, Onion Valley, Whitney Portal and Horseshoe Meadow roads are open.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. Natural Bridge road will be closed through June 11 for resurfacing. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the web at www.nps.gov/deva (Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities) and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Sunny days and warming temperatures are expected through the weekend over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions. A weak low pressure system will move across California starting Friday, producing breezy afternoon conditions and near normal temperatures. By early next week high pressure is expected to build over California, producing above normal temperatures for the region. Highs have been in the lower 30s in the mountains, mid 80s in the Owens Valley and near 105 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 20s in the mountains, to the upper 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds (fee area/no drinking water) at Horton Creek and Crowley Lake are open. Tuttle Creek and Goodale Creek are closed for renovations; for information regarding this project, check the web at www.blm.gov/ca/bishop.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, many campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley sites, Wawona (SR 41) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) are open and have sites available on a reservation basis. Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows will open later in the summer (estimated opening 7/15); sites may be reserved now. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. Visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/deva for information.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid Hills on a first-come/first-served basis. For more information call 1-760-252-6108, or visit the website at www.nps.gov/moja. Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground (across from Hole-In-The-Wall) is open with reservations required, call 1-760-928-2572.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The **BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has fishing reports for many locations in the area: call 1-760-873-8405 for more information. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

WARNING: Snow may hamper access to some lakes and streams at the higher elevations. Please use caution on frozen lakes in the backcountry; weather conditions have made the ice "rotten" - unstable and dangerous.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with an 8 to 16 foot base. For information, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com or call 1-888-766-9778.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy and icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. Significant snowpack remains at higher elevations. Snow conditions make trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. Mountaineering and navigation skills are required. The snow level on the Whitney region is approximately 9,500 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 6,250 feet. The Half Dome cables are not in place. **BEARS** (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. The Whitney zone permit lottery is closed; any remaining spaces are available now for reservations (check the web). For information on permits, including an application form and fees, visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: On Saturday, June 11th, the **Annual California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration** will be held at the Kern River Preserve, Sprague House yard, near Weldon. Entertaining presentations and educational displays will take place from 9:00am to 3:00pm, informing visitors about the many misconceptions and superstitions surrounding our rarely seen neighbors. For information visit the web at www.kern.audubon.org.

Friends of the Inyo and the Inyo National Forest will be hosting screenings of the new film **GREEN FIRE**, about the life of legendary conservationist **Aldo Leopold**. It will be shown in Mammoth on Friday, June 10th at the Edison Theater and in Bishop on Saturday, June 11th at the Inyo Council for the Arts, both shows will start at 7:30 and a reception starting at 6:30.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport, is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Nature walks are presented on Saturday & Sunday in the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** at 1:00pm. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow and road conditions, trail maps, recreation information and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for information.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Information on the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** can be obtained daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the **Kelso Depot Visitor Center** (off I 15 at Baker or off I 40 on Kelbaker Road). Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered daily at 11:00am and 2:00pm. The **Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center** is open Friday through Sunday from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 6/9/11kcw